IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A mucosa excising device using an endoscope comprising:

a snare wire having a loop portion at a distal end portion of the snare wire;

a substantially cylindrical cap including a cylindrical wall, and a holding mechanism ~~which holds a~~ configured to hold the loop portion ~~distal end portion~~ of [[a]] the snare wire ~~in a loop form,~~ in an inner portion of the cylindrical wall such that all portions of the loop portion are held interior of the cylindrical wall; and

an attachment portion which attaches the cap to an end portion of the endoscope,

wherein the holding mechanism has a plurality of engagement pieces and a plurality of corresponding portions which hold the distal end portion of the snare wire between the engagement piece and the corresponding portion, said plurality of engagement pieces being inwardly protruding from the cylindrical wall and being respectively distanced from each other in a circumferential direction of the circular end portion such that the loop portion is disengaged from the holding mechanism in a radially inward direction.

2. (Previously Presented) The mucosa excising device using an endoscope according to claim 1, wherein each of the engagement pieces and each of the corresponding portions elastically hold the distal end portion of the snare wire therebetween.

3. (Previously Presented) The mucosa excising device using an endoscope according to claim 1, wherein the cylindrical wall has an inner flange inwardly protruding from the cylindrical wall, and the engagement pieces are formed in the inner flange, each of the engagement pieces being sectioned from the corresponding portion by a pair of notches

which are distanced in the circumferential direction and extended from an inner edge of the inner flange at an angle with the circumferential direction.

4. (Previously Presented) The mucosa excising device using an endoscope according to claim 3, wherein said each pair of the notches are formed to extend to the cylindrical wall through the inner flange.

5. (Previously Presented) The mucosa excising device using an endoscope according to claim 3, wherein the inner flange has a plurality of lateral notches extending in the circumferential direction, and said each pair of notches extend toward the cylindrical wall from both ends of each lateral notch.

6. (Previously Presented) The mucosa excising device using an endoscope according to claim 3, wherein the circular end portion has a plurality of lateral notches extending in the circumferential direction between the inner flange and the cylindrical wall, and said each pair of notches extend toward the cylindrical wall from both ends of each lateral notch.

7. (Previously Presented) The mucosa excising device using an endoscope according to claim 1, wherein each of the engagement pieces is movable to swivel to a side where the circular end portion is positioned with respect to the corresponding portion, and the engagement piece holds the snare wire between its outer surface and one surface of the corresponding portion when caused to swivel.

8. (Previously Presented) The mucosa excising device using an endoscope according to claim 4, wherein the each of the engagement pieces is elastically deformed and caused to swivel, and the snare wire is pressed against the corresponding portion by an elastic return force of the engagement piece.

9. (Previously Presented) The mucosa excising device using an endoscope according to claim 4, wherein the corresponding portions have a flange provided to inwardly protrude from the cylindrical wall, the engagement piece has separation portions separated from each other by a notch portion formed in the inner flange, and the snare wire is supported between the flange and the separation portions.

10. (Original) The mucosa excising device using an endoscope according to claim 1, wherein the engagement pieces and the corresponding portions are alternately arranged in the circumferential direction of the circular end portion.

11. (Previously Presented) The mucosa excising device using an endoscope according to claim 1, further comprising: a snare sheath into which the snare wire is inserted; a flexible tube which has an opening on an end side, the opening communicating with the inner side of the cylindrical wall which is arranged outside the insertion portion of the endoscope when the cap is attached to the endoscope, and is used to insert the snare sheath in which the snare is inserted therethrough; and a fixture for fixing the snare sheath to prevent the snare sheath from moving in an axial direction of the snare sheath against the flexible tube, to be capable of being released, the fixture being provided in the vicinity of a base end portion of the flexible tube.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) The mucosa excising device using an endoscope according to claim 3, wherein said plurality of notches include vertical notches extending at a substantially right angle.

14. (Previously Presented) The mucosa excising device using an endoscope according to claim 3, wherein said plurality of engagement pieces are arranged in the same interval in the circumferential direction.

15. (Previously Presented) The mucosa excising device using an endoscope according to claim 3, wherein each of the engagement pieces and each of the corresponding portions directly contact opposite sides of the end portion of the snare wire to hold the end portion therebetween.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A mucosa excising device using an endoscope comprising:

a snare wire having a loop portion at a distal end portion of the snare wire;

a substantially cylindrical cap having a circular end portion including a holding mechanism ~~which directly holds~~ configured to hold the loop portion ~~a looped distal end portion~~ of [[a]] the snare wire such that all portions of the loop portion are held interior of the circular end portion; and

an attachment portion which attaches the cap to an end portion of an endoscope,

wherein the holding mechanism has a plurality of engagement portions which are provided along the circular end portion of the cap and distanced from each other in a circumferential direction, and each engagement portion has an engagement piece and a corresponding portion ~~which~~ configured to hold the looped distal end portion of the snare wire in an elastic manner therebetween so that the looped distal end portion is positioned to be parallel to the circular distal end portion along a circular inner surface of the cylindrical cap

such that the loop portion is disengaged from the holding mechanism in a radially inward direction.